

AL-10-001-5095



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

SEP 27 2010

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator  
Tower 1, Suite 1710  
100 South Charles Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Senator Cardin:

Thank you for your letter of September 7, 2010 to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on behalf of your constituent, Mr. [redacted] regarding the ongoing remedial investigation at Fort Detrick, Maryland. EPA understands the concerns raised by Mr. [redacted] pertaining to complex geology underlying Fort Detrick, and how it will impact the investigation and remediation of contamination found in the groundwater beneath Fort Detrick.

The U. S. Army (Army), the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and EPA have developed a remedial investigation work plan to specifically assess the groundwater beneath Area B of Fort Detrick. The work plan includes the sampling of more than a hundred groundwater monitoring wells, dye-trace studies to determine groundwater preferential flow paths, and vapor intrusion sampling at select buildings which are located over the known contaminated groundwater plume. The implementation of this investigation is set to begin in the autumn of 2010.

EPA is negotiating a Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA) with the Army, which not only defines the enforcement capabilities of EPA at Fort Detrick, but also outlines the process and structure for conducting investigative and remedial activities at Fort Detrick. EPA is fully committed to having the FFA at Fort Detrick completed by December 1, 2010.


EPA strongly encourages public involvement in the decision making process for the investigation and remediation of Fort Detrick. The Army currently holds Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings for Fort Detrick at an off-post location. Mr. [redacted] is encouraged to participate in the Fort Detrick RAB, and can contact Fort Detrick directly about joining the RAB, if he is so inclined. Providing the public full access to detailed meetings on the ongoing investigative and remedial activities by the Army at Fort Detrick is a step towards building a link between Fort Detrick and the City of Frederick. EPA continues to press the Army for open and public discourse on all environmental activities undertaken by the Army.



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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Mrs. Linda Miller, EPA's Maryland Liaison, at 215-814-2068.

Sincerely,

  
Shawn M. Garvin  
Regional Administrator

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**Customer Service Hotline: 1-800-438-2474**

BENJAMIN L. CARDIN  
UNITED STATES SENATOR  
MARYLAND

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-2004

September 7, 2010

Mr. David McIntosh  
Assoc. Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Room 3426 ARN  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. McIntosh:

I am writing in regard to the concerns expressed by my constituent,  
regarding the investigation of possible cancer-causing contaminants in communities around Fort  
Detrick, Maryland.

Mr. email and my press release regarding these issues are enclosed. I look  
forward to your response.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

*Benjamin L. Cardin*

Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

BLC:bf  
Enclosures

Reply To:

☐ 509 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-2004  
(202) 224-4524  
[www.cardin.senate.gov](http://www.cardin.senate.gov)

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Reply To:

☒ Tower 1 Suite 1710  
100 S. Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
(410) 962-4436

<APP>CUSTOM

<IP> \_\_\_\_\_ </IP>  
 <PREFIX>Mr.</PREFIX>  
 <FIRST> \_\_\_\_\_ </FIRST>  
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 helpsite@mail

Comments:

<MSG>The missing link to the Ft. Detrick cancer cluster

These are the facts:

- 1). You are aware aquifers flow below the cancer cluster location in the communities around Ft. Detrick.
- 2). The Maryland Department of Natural Resources tests the specific conductance of water on an ongoing basis – this is the measurement of how well the water can carry an electrical current due to the amount and mobility of ions in the water. The more the ions, the easier it is for the water to carry an electrical current.
- 3). Geologists know that an aquifer is like a hard sponge and that there is tremendous pressure and friction generated due to the force of the water going through this hard sponge. This friction provides the spark and the ion content in the water provides the vehicle to carry the electric current. And this has already been proven – as engineers and scientists in Canada have discovered a new way to generate electricity. Larry Kostuk and colleagues at the University of Alberta pumped water through tiny micro channels to directly generate an electrical current - which in turn shows the direct conversion of energy of moving water to electricity.
- 4). The majority of the people around Ft. Detrick with cancer live directly over an area of the aquifer that is under a great amount of pressure and friction – this is causing stress to enter their homes – and over time, this stress weakens the immune system and can cause chronic stress and chronic disease.
- 5). The U.S. has many unsolved cancer clusters, and each one of these unsolved cancer clusters have aquifers directly below the cluster location. When a person's immune system becomes compromised, even the level of chemicals the EPA deem to be acceptable, no longer are.
- 6). We have the scientific studies and knowledge to show you this is all true - please listen.

Sincerely,

</MSG>

</APP>

**Fine, Bailey (Cardin)**

**From:** Sullarn, Susan (Cardin)  
**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2010 11:57 AM  
**To:** Sullarn, Susan (Cardin)  
**Subject:** SEN. CARDIN CALLS ON DoD TO ADDRESS FT. DETRICK CONTAMINATION ISSUES  
**Attachments:** BLC letter to DoD on FFA 8-16-10.pdf



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Susan Sullarn, 410-962-4436

August 16, 2010

PDF of letter to DoD is Attached

## **SENATOR CARDIN CALLS ON DoD TO MOVE SWIFTLY TO ADDRESS FT. DETRICK CONTAMINATION ISSUES**

*Cardin Calls for Implementation of FFA Agreement as Needed Step in Process*

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD) today sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Defense urging swift action to investigate and remediate contamination on the Fort Detrick Army base located in Frederick, MD. In the letter, the Senator called on the Army to expedite the signing of a Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA) with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by December 1, 2010. Signing the legally enforceable FFA is an important step forward with the investigation and remediation of contaminated sites as required by law.

In April 2009, the EPA added Area B Groundwater site to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). A FFA creates a legally enforceable process for detecting and remediating contaminated sites that the federal government must address. It also provides the Army with the added expertise of the EPA in conducting the cleanup of Superfund sites.

In the letter to the DoD, Senator Cardin stated: "We need to provide the Frederick community with assurances that an independent federal agency is overseeing" the investigation and cleanup of all contaminants. Recent news reports indicate that Agent Orange also may have been tested at Fort Detrick.

The Senator is encouraged that the base command is taking these reports seriously and conducting historical research into past contamination. "Any newly identified contamination must also be included in remediation efforts," said Senator Cardin.

From 1943 through 1969, Fort Detrick was the nation's center for offensive and defensive biological warfare research. In 2009, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) approved plans to cap six landfill sites on Area B, which has been completed.

*The text of Senator Cardin's letter to the DoD is below:*

August 16, 2010

Katherine Hammack  
Assistant Secretary of the Army  
Installations and Environment  
110 Army Pentagon Room 3E464  
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Assistant Secretary Hammack:

The ongoing efforts to discover and remediate contaminated sites in and around Fort Detrick in Frederick, Maryland are important to protecting the health of both the on-base communities of Fort Detrick and the surrounding residential and business communities proximate to the Base. I am encouraged by how serious base command at Fort Detrick is taking these issues. As new information about the extent and varied types of legacy contamination at the Fort Detrick complex comes to light, it is clear that more work will be needed.

Critical to the investigation and remediation of the onsite contaminants is the completion of the Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA) between the Army and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Section 120 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, otherwise known as CERCLA or Superfund, establishes the FFA program as a means of creating a legally enforceable process for detecting and remediating contaminated sites that the federal government must address. The FFA exists to provide structure to the continuing investigations and the remedial actions to address contaminants. In addition, it provides the Army with the added expertise of the EPA in conducting a Superfund cleanup and the community with the assurances that an independent federal agency is overseeing the effort.

With recent concerns raised about the experimental use of Agent Orange at the Fort decades ago, base command at Fort Detrick has indicated that it intends to conduct additional comprehensive research into historical uses of the facility and the potential for other legacy pollutants. I urge the Army to conduct this work with all deliberate speed. All potential pathways of contamination must be examined thoroughly, including comprehensive groundwater assessments, vapor intrusion analysis and soil testing. I urge the Army and EPA to complete the FFA in advance of the legally mandated schedule. This agreement can inform the process for the completion of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study currently underway and will help accelerate the overall restoration effort. Therefore, I ask you to commit to completing the FFA by December 1 of this year.

In addition, I urge the Army to recommit itself to being transparent with the communities surrounding Fort Detrick and to expand its plan for public participation and information. As a fundamental matter of fairness, the public has a right to know. Community support is also essential in helping the Fort meet its numerous missions.

As you know, I raised similar issues at Fort Meade where the FFA languished for years and public confidence was eroded. The Army and EPA were able to commit to a date-certain for completing the process. The FFA was signed by the deadline. Since then, the Superfund process has moved forward aggressively and the community's concerns have been allayed. I believe a similar result can happen at Fort Detrick.

Thank you for your attention to these issues. I would appreciate a reply detailing the Army's plans to address the concerns that I have raised as well receiving periodic updates on the progress the Army is making to resolve these outstanding issues surrounding the contamination investigation and remediation projects at Fort Detrick. Please feel free to have your staff follow-up with Josh Klein of my staff at 202-224-4524.

--##--

Susan Sullam  
Communications Director  
Office of U.S. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin  
410-962-4436 (Baltimore)  
202-224-4524 (D.C.)  
410-960-2440 (Cell)  
[susan\\_sullam@cardin.senate.gov](mailto:susan_sullam@cardin.senate.gov)

BENJAMIN L. CARDIN  
SENATOR

# United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

## FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Date: 9/7/10

TO: David McIntosh  
EPA - Congressional Affairs

FAX: 202-501-1519

FROM: Bailey Line

Office of U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin  
Tower I, Suite 1710  
100 S. Charles Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201  
(410) 962-4436  
Fax (410) 962-4156

COMMENTS:

- (H. Derrick, MD)

NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 5